



## ***THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* WINS A RECORD-BREAKING SEVEN OLIVIER AWARDS**

### **More awards than any other play in Olivier Award history**

The National Theatre's production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, which is running at the Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, received **seven** Olivier Awards at a ceremony held at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden.

The show has won more awards than any other play in Olivier Award history and includes the prestigious **Best New Play Award**, which was presented to playwright **Simon Stephens** and the author of the original novel, **Mark Haddon**. **Marianne Elliott** was presented with the Best Director award.

**Luke Treadaway**, who plays Christopher Boone won the award for Best Actor and **Nicola Walker**, who played Judy at the Cottesloe Theatre received the award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

**Paule Constable** won the award for Best Lighting Design, **Ian Dickinson** and composer **Adrian Sutton** won the award for best sound design and **Bunny Christie and Finn Ross** received the award for Best Set Design.

Director **Marianne Elliott** said: 'We are all absolutely thrilled to have received seven Olivier Awards for our production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. It's a privilege to be part of a team in which every single person has a real sense of passion and obsession with quality – a talented team constantly taking risks and doing their very best to be true to Mark Haddon's creation of Christopher John Francis Boone.'

The Olivier Awards ceremony took place at the Royal Opera House on Sunday 28 April, and was hosted by Hugh Bonneville and Sheridan Smith. It was broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 with a television highlights package broadcast on ITV later in the evening.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***, based on **Mark Haddon's** award-winning novel, has been adapted by **Simon Stephens** and directed by **Marianne Elliott**. It had a sell-out run at the National's Cottesloe Theatre last year.

**Luke Treadaway** plays Christopher Boone, the fifteen-year old maths genius with behavioural problems. The cast is completed by **Niamh Cusack** as his teacher, Siobhan, **Holly Aird** (Judy) **Matthew Barker** (Ensemble), **Sophie Duval** (Mrs Shears), **Seán Gleeson** (Ed), **Rhiannon Harper-Rafferty** (Ensemble), **Nick Sidi** (Roger), **Tilly Tremayne** (Mrs Alexander), **Howard Ward** (Ensemble) and Johnny Gibbon as the alternate Christopher.

The production is designed by **Bunny Christie**, with lighting by **Paule Constable**, video design by **Finn Ross**, movement by **Scott Graham** and **Steven Hoggett** for Frantic Assembly, music by **Adrian Sutton** and sound by **Ian Dickinson** for Autograph.

Christopher, fifteen years old, stands beside Mrs Shears' dead dog. It has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in a book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington. He has an extraordinary brain, exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

**Simon Stephens'** play *Port* (originally produced at the Royal Exchange and also directed by Marianne Elliott) has just finished a run at the Lyttelton Theatre. His other plays for the National are *Harper Regan* and *On the Shore of the Wide World* (co-production with Royal Exchange, Manchester: Olivier Award for Best New Play). His many other plays include *Three Kingdoms*, *Wastwater*, *Punk Rock*, *Seawall*, *Pornography*, *Country Music*, *Christmas* and *Herons*; *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky* (co-written with Robert Holman and David Eldridge); and an adaptation of Jon Fosse's *I Am the Wind*.

**Marianne Elliott** is an Associate Director at the National, where her productions include the award-winning *War Horse* (co-directed with Tom Morris), *Season's Greetings*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Harper Regan*, *Saint Joan* (Olivier Award for Best Revival, South Bank Show Award for Theatre) and *Pillars of the Community* (Evening Standard Award for Best Director).

**Mark Haddon's** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* was published in 2003. It was the winner of more than 17 literary awards, including prizes in Japan, Holland and Italy as well as the Whitbread Book of the Year Award in the UK in 2004. It was translated into 44 languages. *A Spot of Bother*, published in 2006, was an international bestseller. Mark Haddon's first work for the theatre, *Polar Bears*, was produced by the Donmar Warehouse in 2010. He has written 15 books for children, published a first collection of poetry in 2005 and is an illustrator and award-winning screenwriter. *The Red House*, Mark Haddon's new novel was published by Vintage in paperback. This title is already available in hardback and ebook.

There is an accompanying **learning programme** for schools including workshops, pre-show Q&As and a *Curious about Devising* project offering ASD and neuro-typical students the chance to integrate through collaborative theatre-making.

Ticket prices range from £12 to £57.50, with **150** tickets at **£12** each available for every performance.

**Notes to editors:**

The original production was sponsored by the National Theatre's Cottesloe Partner, Neptune Investment Management.

**Production images for current National Theatre shows** can now be viewed and downloaded from the NT website.

To access the images, please paste this link into your browser:

<http://microsites.nationaltheatre.org.uk/?lid=71660>

click on **Login here** and enter the following details:

Email: [pressdownload@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:pressdownload@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Password: download1

Links to current productions are situated at the top right hand corner of the page. You will find full instructions for downloading images though please be aware that you may need to rename the images to the *filename.jpg* format in order to open them.

NB: Please make sure you log out when you have downloaded the images.

**Contact: Nada Zakula on 020 7452 3046 or 07831 766086; [nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk)**

**For further information or photographs from the Olivier Awards please contact:**

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**Public information for Curious at the Apollo**

Dates: Booking Until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Address: Apollo Theatre, 31 Shaftesbury Avenue, London  
W1D 7EZ

Performances: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm  
Tuesdays at 7pm  
Thursday and Saturday matinees at 2.30pm

*There are no performances on alternate Mondays. Please check website for dates.*

Box Office: National Theatre Box Office  
*No Booking fee*  
Telephone 020 7452 3000  
Online from [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Nimax Theatres Box Office  
*With booking fee*  
Telephone 0844 412 4658.  
Online from [www.nimaxtheatres.com](http://www.nimaxtheatres.com)

Ticket prices: £12 - £57.50 (150 seats at £12 for  
every performance)

Premium tickets and concessions available

An allocation of £12 Day Seats will be available for every performance from the Apollo Theatre box office from 10am

Schools Groups (10 plus) Grand Circle £35 reduced to £20, 1 teacher free for every 10 pupils paid. (Excluding peak weeks and subject to availability). Booking fee applies.  
0844 482 9678

Education and Schools: For more information about the accompanying Learning programme contact NT Learning on 020 7452 3388 or [learning@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:learning@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Website: [www.curiousonstage.com](http://www.curiousonstage.com)

Facebook: curiousincidentonstage

Twitter: curiouswestend

## **‘RELAXED PERFORMANCE’ OF *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME***

**Saturday June 22 at 2.30pm, Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue**

Suitable for age 11 years+

A ‘Relaxed Performance’ of the National Theatre’s highly acclaimed and eight times Olivier Award nominated production of ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*** will take place at the Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue on Saturday June 22 at 2.30pm.

The performance is part of a national Relaxed Performances Project piloted by the Society of London Theatre (SOLT), the Theatrical Management Association (TMA) and The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts (Children & the Arts). Specifically designed to welcome people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, learning disability or sensory and communication disorders into the theatre, Relaxed Performances give those who otherwise might feel excluded the chance to experience live performance.

This performance follows the success of two previous National Theatre Relaxed Performances – *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in October 2012 and *Hansel and Gretel* in January 2013 – both in the Cottesloe Theatre. This will be the National Theatre’s first ‘Relaxed Performance’ in the West End.

Lighting and special effects will be adapted for the performance, such as removing strobes and flashing lights and reducing very loud noises; and additional audience movement and interaction will be expected. Parts of the Apollo theatre foyer will be available as a quiet space to relax for those who need to leave and re-enter the auditorium during the show. After the performance, the audience will be welcome to stay for a ‘Question and Answer’ session with the actors who will be in costume but out of character.

The National Theatre is one of 10 theatres across the UK participating in the Relaxed Performance Project. The plan is to encourage many more theatres to take part following publication of the findings of an independent evaluation of the project in the autumn. It is hoped that the project will lead to the development of a best practice model for national and international use by the theatre industry.

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The production is designed by **Bunny Christie**, with lighting by **Paule Constable**, video design by **Finn Ross**, movement by **Scott Graham** and **Steven Hoggett** for Frantic Assembly, music by **Adrian Sutton** and sound by **Ian Dickinson** for Autograph.

Christopher, fifteen years old, stands beside Mrs Shears' dead dog. It has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in a book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington. He has an extraordinary brain, exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

### **Public Information:**

Address: Apollo Theatre, 31 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 7EZ

Tickets: £25

**Tickets for the relaxed performance are bookable by telephone only on 020 7452 3961, open 9.30am – 8pm.**

**For further information please contact Nada Zakula, Press Office, National Theatre Productions, 020 7452 3046 or 07831 766086 [nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk)**

**About the Relaxed Performance Project**

Being piloted in ten theatres across the UK, the Relaxed Performance Project aims to provide access to creative, safe and inspiring public theatre performances for children with special needs, including Autistic Spectrum Conditions and/or learning disabilities and, crucially, their families. Performances are specially designed to give those who otherwise might feel excluded the chance to experience live theatre.

'Relaxed Performances' are designed to have a less formal, more supportive atmosphere in order to reduce anxiety levels. To achieve this, performances are adapted in a number of ways, including through hosting familiarisation pre-performance visits for families; training actors and front of house staff; cultivating an embracing attitude to audience movement and noise during the performance; adjusting light levels and special effects; and providing chill-out spaces for families.

Theatres have been selected based on the type of production on offer – a representative range of musicals, drama, comedy and pantomime – all of which are family friendly and appealing to a range of ages, in order to develop robust best practice for the theatre sector at large. A research team has been commissioned to assess the audience, staff and theatre experience, the findings of which will be disseminated to the sector and families in autumn 2013 with the aim of encouraging regularly programmed relaxed performances across the UK in the future.

Project partners are Society of London Theatre (SOLT), the Theatrical Management Association (TMA) and The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts (Children & the Arts) with generous support provided by the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation. The team is also working closely with partners from the autism sector, including The National Autistic Society.

### **About The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts**

The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts (Children & the Arts) transforms children's lives through participation in the arts. We use the arts to tackle educational disadvantage, caused by social and economic circumstances.

Children & the Arts targets 'poverty of aspiration' by inspiring children to use the arts to build self-confidence and self-esteem and to nurture skills in communication, creativity, analysis and teamwork. Our funded programmes build lasting partnerships between schools and the cultural venues in their local area, enabling children to attend professional performances and exhibitions, and to benefit from enrichment activities both in-school and at the venue.

Over 300,000 children have participated in our projects. 90% of our projects have continued to thrive well beyond the lifespan of our support. For more information and to support us please visit [childrenandarts.org.uk](http://childrenandarts.org.uk)

### **About the Society of London Theatre**

The Society of London Theatre is the association which represents the producers, theatre owners and managers of the 52 major commercial and grant-aided theatres in central London. The organisation exists in order to promote theatregoing, develop audiences, and to serve, protect and promote the interests of those engaged in theatre across London, through activities including The Olivier Awards with MasterCard, TKTS ticket booth, the Official London Theatre guide, Theatre Tokens, West End LIVE and the promotions Kids Week and Get Into London Theatre.

### **About the Theatrical Management Association**

Established in 1894, the TMA is a leading trade association representing the interests of and providing professional support for the performing arts in the UK. Our members include theatres, multi-purpose venues, arts centres, concert halls, commercial producers, touring theatre, opera and ballet companies, sole traders and suppliers to the performing arts. [www.tmauk.org](http://www.tmauk.org). Since 1991 the annual TMA Theatre Awards have celebrated the creative excellence and outstanding work seen in UK theatres each year. These awards were relaunched as the Theatre Awards UK in 2011.

**For further information on the Relaxed Performance Project please contact:**

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